

Report of the Pastor
Zion Lutheran Church
November 2021

- 1) **Synod:** I am on my way home from attendance today at the boundaries workshop (1-6:00 PM in Sioux Falls), a requirement for all Rostered leadership in our denomination, is why I'm not in person with you, and am joining via conference call.
- 2) **Divine Drama:** I'm very happy with the sign-up, 25 participants and counting, including one member from St. Mark's Episcopal church, and Ann Fortin (LCM-NSU). I have encouraged the group to invite people from our church as well as others, since it is still in the introductory phase, and there's still time to sign up. Zoom link is available for people who cannot join in person, but of course in person participation is by far the best. As part of your leadership calling, I really want to see every councilmember taking The Divine Drama for your own continued discipleship and to further equip you for leadership in our congregation
- 3) **Worship stuff:**
 - 1) I am establishing a regular schedule with our musicians to plan songs and music for our services. We are finding our groove as to what works best for both services as they are very different and style.
 - 2) Times for Christmas Eve services are set for 3:30 and 5 PM Christmas Eve, same Candlelight Service for both, and there will be no Christmas day service due to low attendance.
 - 3) Advent midweek services are set for the first three weeks of December at 6:05 PM. The fellowship team will determine pre-service meals.
- 4) **Staff Stuff:**
 - 1) Sandra and I are working out our rotation for things like children's chapel and Sunday children's messages.
 - 2) I've established weekly staff meetings that are Tuesdays at 1:15 PM. All of our staff are very talented and gifted and do amazing ministry. I am enjoying good working rapport and relationships with our staff, and they are truly a blessing to the ministry of our congregation.
- 5) **Stewardship Stuff:** I have already, will be doing a two PowerPoint presentation on "*Stewardship: A Whole-Life Proposition*", using PowerPoint illustrations from the Divine Drama course.

6) Revisiting help I've requested from council members:

- 1) We are in phase 1 of this interim discernment process. Part of the purpose of phase 1 is for me to get to know the congregation and you to get to know me better. Even as far back when I interviewed, I made a specific request for council members and/or appropriate committees to arrange for in person meetings, hopefully in people's homes, to gather members together for food, fellowship and for me to interface with members beyond the church walls.
- 2) I must be sincere, and candid that I am disappointed that, save a couple of individual invitations, none of this has happened yet. I understand that I'm new, you don't know me very well, and yes, I had some health issues upon my arrival that I had to get through. And I'm sure there's still COVID fears afoot. These are understandable reason why perhaps it hasn't happened, and I get that.
- 3) However, since am with you for 1 to 2 years, everything needs to happen to help me get to know you! as soon as possible, as quick as possible, as much as possible, in many ways as possible, so that I can better do my job as interim and consulting Pastor for our whole process. The better I know you the better I can help you.
- 4) So respectfully I'm asking you to kindly make arrangements for cottage meetings, e.g., members' homes, coffee shops or restaurants, just to gather people together, break bread whenever possible, for me to get to know you better. It's as simple as that, and this could even extend into after the holidays. And besides there's no substitute for fellowship together. Respectfully please make every effort to make this happen.
- 5) **Also....** I have also asked all council members to make arrangements with me to meet with your committees at your next meeting, to bring me up to speed with your ministry and what excites you, what are goals you can set for 2022, and how I can be a pastoral resource for you. To date, the Worship and Music, Education, and Home Visitation committee has done that. I'm asking the rest of the committees to make like arrangements with me as soon as possible.

7) Gone times:

- 1) 12/25/2021-01/04/2022 Home for the holidays
 - i. Ann Fortin, LCM-NSU, will preach and preside (pending synodical authorization).
- 2) (Tentative) 07/14/2022—08/01/2022 Summer vacation back home

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P Galbraith

Intentional Interim Pastor